(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently given some verdicts against the prevalent reservation policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has delivered a number of judgements having bearing on the reservation policy since the judgement of Nine-Judge Constitutional Bench in the Indira Sawheny case. In a recent judgement dated 16.9.1999, in the case of Ajit Singh II, the Five-Judge constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court has reaffirmed the principles enunciated in an earlier judgement dated 10.10.1995 in the case of Virpal Singh Chauhan i.e. the application of rule of reservation may provide accelerated promotion to the reserved candidates but cannot provide

Appointment of Foreign Experts in the Ministries

†1620. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign experts are appointed on the posts of adviser etc., in different Ministries of the Government of India;

(b) if so, what are the basis of these appointments; and

(c) the names of Ministries where such advisers are working at present as well as their names and duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Appointment of non-Indians to civil posts under the Government of India is to be normally made only in very exceptional circumstances, and then also only on contract for the minimum period necessary, when suitable Indians are not available. Simultaneously, suitable steps are to be taken to trained Indians to fill such posts. Further, as per the orders

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in force, administrative Ministries/Departments are competent to decide cases of appointment of non-Indians to posts under their control keeping in view the general policy on the subject and after obtaining orders of the Minister-in-charge. Information regarding non-Indians appointed as advisers by various Ministries/Departments, as also the nature of duties performed by them, is not centrally maintained.

Dealers Commission

1621. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much per litre cost of each type of expenses admitted by Government is included in the dealers commission while deciding the PPO dealers commission;

(b) whether the IOC vide its letter No. R/o/CoCo dated 15.10.98 had decided to give Rs. 231/- per kilo to job contractor for manpower, stock loss and contractor's remuneration;

(c) what are the reasons for giving lesser commission to regular responsible dealers and the reasons for discrimination; and

(d) whether this discrimination would adversely affect the financial position of the dealers belonging to SC/ST/DEF/ladies categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The details of the moderated operating costs elementwise are given in the statement (*see* below). In addition, product loss, return on working capital and return on fixed assets are also taken into account while fixing the dealers' commission.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation had decided to make payment to the job contractor subject to a ceiling of Rs. 231/- per KL for MS(Petrol) and HSD (Diesel), on a temporary arrangement basis.

(c) and (d) Dealers' commission paid by oil companies to retail outlet dealers are based on cost components prevailing at the time of finalising the dealers commission. These cost components were arrived at by way of sample survey and by taking into account all

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.